

September 6, 2023



FROM THE DESK OF
COMMISSIONER
BRENT BAILEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



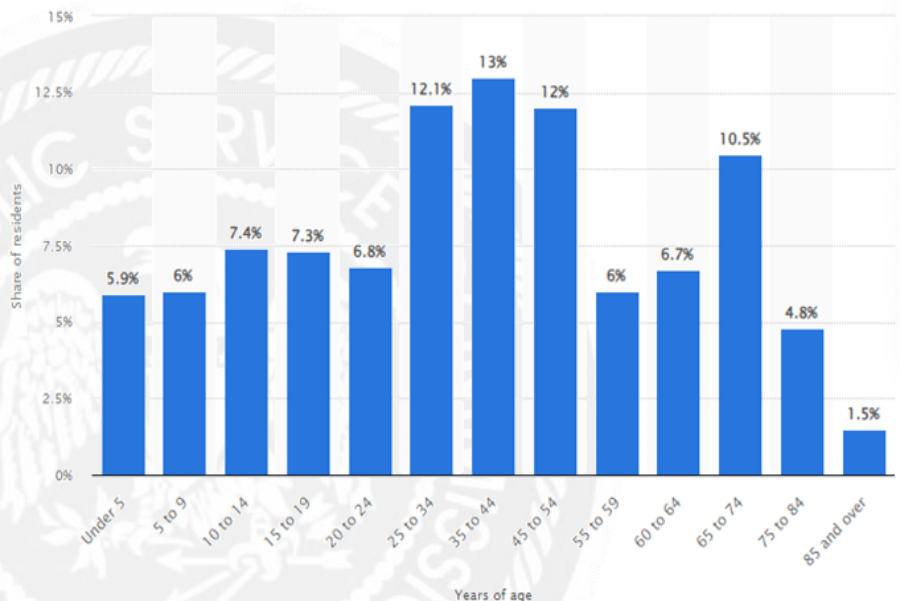
The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues and the continuous work we are doing for the citizens in the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.

Brent Bailey

September is National Preparedness Month

Each September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) observes September as National Preparedness Month in an effort to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. Although Mississippi is no stranger to extreme weather events and other natural disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, droughts, ice storms and more, there are other disasters and emergencies that we may not always think about. Those lesser thought about events include cyber or biological attacks, earthquakes and wildfires. We have already seen many of the above referenced disasters occur in Mississippi or other parts of the U.S.

This campaign is committed to putting people first and reaching communities where they are. To continue these efforts, this year's National Preparedness Month campaign will feature a call to focus on preparing older adults for disasters, specifically older adults from communities that may be disproportionately impacted. Older adults can face greater risks when it comes to the multitude of extreme weather events and emergencies we now face, especially if they are living alone, are low-income, are in poor health, or live in rural areas.



According to the most recent census information, Mississippi has 496,945 citizens of the age of 65 and over, making up 16.9% of the state's population. Furthermore, 14% of the 65 and over population live in poverty, many with a disability or medical condition that prevents them from being mobile. These older adults may have specific needs and may require special assistance.

FEMA's National Preparedness Month theme for 2023 is "Take Control in 1, 2, 3." This theme instructs everyone, especially older adults, to 1) assess their needs, 2) make a plan and 3) engage their support network to stay safe when disaster strikes. Over the next decade, it is imperative that the growing older adult population become more aware of their risks and better prepared for them. Use the information at <https://www.ready.gov/older-adults> to assess your or a family member's needs and take simple, low-cost steps that help get everyone better prepared for an emergency or natural disaster.



New Reports of Interest

American Nuclear Society Recommends Updating EPA Repository Regulations

The American Nuclear Society (ANS) published a finalized report on recommendations for updating public health and safety standards for the permanent disposal of commercial used nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste at future geological repository projects. The finalized report, [Recommendations on Postclosure Aspects of Generic Standards for the Permanent Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level and Transuranic Radioactive Wastes in the United States](#), recommends changes to current geologic repository regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that apply to all sites, except Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

The U.S. has safely managed spent nuclear fuel on-site at nuclear facilities for decades. But the U.S. nuclear waste management system is missing one important piece: a long-term geologic repository. The U.S. nuclear waste disposal program has been at a standstill since the suspension of the Yucca Mountain geologic repository project in 2010.

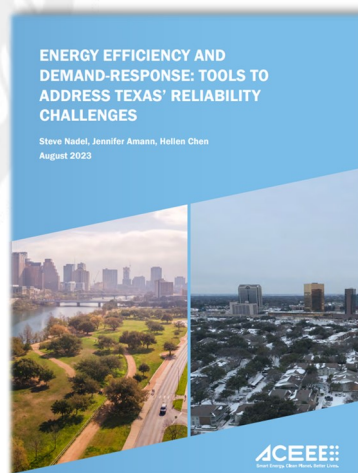
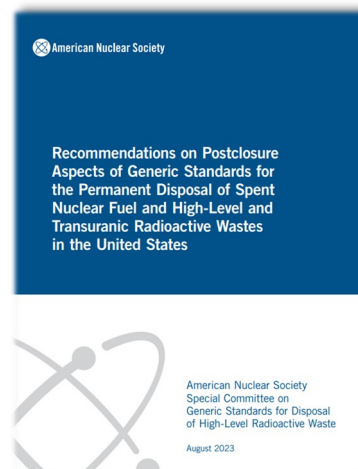
The ANS committee produced the report with the aim of spurring the development of updated EPA geologic repository standards. Those generic standards were issued 30 years ago, and the state of the practice in the regulation of geologic repositories has evolved significantly since then. However, EPA will likely require direction from Congress before a formal rulemaking can begin.

ACEEE Recommends Measures to Improve Reliability in Texas

Texas has recently experienced major electric reliability problems or close calls on multiple occasions due to a combination of extreme weather (hot or cold) and failures of certain generation assets. Meanwhile, Texas's growing population and accompanying load growth are driving increased electricity demand. ACEEE has issued a new report that outlines ways to address spiking summer and winter power demands while reducing costs to households and businesses and increasing reliability.

The report, [Energy Efficiency and Demand-Response: Tools to Address Texas' Reliability Challenges](#), showcases how incentivizing energy-saving upgrades in homes and commercial buildings as well as rewarding electric customers for voluntarily shifting some of their energy use to off-peak hours would reduce peak electrical demand and improve grid reliability at a far lower cost than building new, subsidized power plants.

The report finds that a set of 10 energy efficiency and demand response programs for residential and commercial buildings and equipment, deployed aggressively over the 2024-2030 period, could serve more than 13 million Texas households and offset almost 15,000 MW of summer peak load and 25,300 MW of winter peak load. Customers would on average receive \$20 per month in benefits to their electric bills. These measures and savings could be easily replicated in Mississippi.





Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC** filed [Revised Exhibits](#) in regard to its Petition for Approval of the Sale and Transfer of Certain Assets, Facilities, Property, and Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the Provision of Wastewater Disposal Service in **Harrison, Hinds, and Rankin Counties**. The revised Exhibit E adds the City of Florence to the list of interested persons, an entity that was omitted from the original exhibit filed by **Great River**.
- ✎ **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC** also filed [Revised Exhibits](#) in regard to its Petition for Approval of the Sale and Transfer of Certain Assets, Facilities, Property, and CPCN for the Provision of Wastewater Disposal Service in **Lamar and Lauderdale Counties**. The revised Exhibit E adds **Waste Water Solutions, LLC** to the list of interested persons, an entity that was omitted from the original exhibit.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to Change Rates related to the operation of municipally owned water supply and sewage pumping plants. **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Municipal Pumping Power Service Rate Schedule MP22 (MP-22) is currently in effect and EML's Municipal Pumping Power Service Rate Schedule MP-23 (MP-23) will supersede Schedule MP-22. Under MP-22, once an account reaches the highest demand, the account will continue to bill based on 50% of the highest kW established since account inception. MP-23 will show "Demand" as the highest kW of measured load established during the immediately preceding 24-month rolling period, or the maximum kW specified in the Agreement for Service. This proposed change will have the potential to save municipalities approximately \$240,000 annually. There are approximately 1,900 meters currently served by Schedule MP-22.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** also filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to Make Routine Changes in Rates and Schedules to discontinue certain rates and schedules for electric service that are inactive. Currently, there are no customers utilizing the Cotton Gin Power Rate Schedule, Oil Mill Power Rate Schedule, or Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Riders.
- ✎ **The Commission** issued a [Recommended Order](#) approving the Petition of **Cooperative Energy** for a CPCN authorizing them to acquire the necessary sites and rights-of-way, for **Cooperative Energy** to construct, maintain and operate a new single circuit 115 kV transmission line, to rebuild one existing 115 kV transmission line, to construct one new 3-way 115 kV GOAB switch, and to construct one new 115 kV switching station with circuit breakers on existing and new right-of way in **Claiborne, Copiah, and Hinds Counties**. The purpose of these electric transmission line and switching station facilities are needed to improve reliability and quality of service to the existing delivery points in the Utica community, Hinds Community College Utica Campus, as well as surrounding portions of **Claiborne, Copiah, and Hinds Counties** by providing loop transmission service with circuit breakers to provide system protection from Utica to Port Gibson. The total cost of the project will be approximately \$26,710,000.
- ✎ **The Commission** issued an [Order Approving Compliance Tariff](#) in regard to the Notice of Intent of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** to implement the Solar for Schools Rate Schedule SFS-1.
- ✎ **The Commission** also issued an [Order Approving Compliance Tariff](#) for the Notice of Intent of **Mississippi Power Company** to Establish a Solar for Schools Rate Schedule "SFS".
- ✎ **CableSouth Media III, LLC** filed their Lifeline Services [Tariff](#) in accordance with the Regulations and Schedule of Intrastate Charges Applying to the Provision of Lifeline Services within the State.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its 2023 [Hire Mississippi](#) Annual Report pursuant to the **Commission's** Rules to foster economic development through increased use of Mississippi businesses by the publicly regulated utilities within the State.



Continued...

- ✎ **Atmos Energy Corporation** filed its Rule 7.103 [Construction Notice](#) and other information pertaining to the Stateline Road and Pleasant Hill Road project in **DeSoto County**. This System Improvement Project is necessary to boost system pressure and increase system capacity in the northeast section of the **DeSoto County** service area and the estimated cost of the project is \$1,477,012.
- ✎ **Spire Mississippi Inc.** filed its 2023 [Notice](#) of the Filing of Routine Changes in the Rate Stabilization Adjustment Rider (RSA). The calculations of the rate stabilization adjustment and allowed return under the RSA, together with a schedule of the present and proposed rates, incorporating the revenue adjustments resulting from these calculations, in summary are the following: Allowed Return on Equity 10.34%; Allowed Range of No Change 9.34% - 11.34%; Actual Return on Equity 5.06%; and Revenue Adjustment \$1,327,975.
- ✎ **Southern Renewable Energy Association (SREA)** filed its [Comments](#) regarding **Entergy Mississippi LLC's** 2024 Cycle Integrated Resource Plan information presented at the August 9, 2023 public workshop.

CENTRAL DISTRICT

SNAPS



I enjoyed a good conversation with Gerard on SuperTalk last week discussing the impact the recent extreme temperatures could have on your upcoming utility bills, the June storm report from Entergy MS we are currently reviewing, and our upcoming community forums throughout the Central District. We wanted to also give a shout out to our friend, Rhino, the master behind the machine turning the wheels on MidDays with Gerard Gibert.

Listen back to our conversation: <https://youtu.be/LuSCq6Skrlo>

Last week, we met with Conexon Connect, LLC's Leslye Krampe and Carl Meyerhoefer, and Kacey Bailey, with Glover, Young, Hammack, Walton & Simmons, PLLC out of Meridian, to discuss their fiber optic buildout progress in Mississippi. Conexon was designated an ETC by the MPSC in April 2021 as a winning bidder of the RDOF Phase I Auction. Conexon was awarded \$55,818,256 in RDOF funding over 10 years. Their plan entails providing broadband services to 23,942 locations to several counties including Jefferson, Copiah and Claiborne, which are located in the Central District. Conexon is also assisting 9 different rural electric cooperatives in the state with their fiber to the home broadband buildouts, including East Mississippi Connect and D.E. LightSpeed. I look forward to the progression of the buildout as they bring their services to Mississippians who lack access to reliable, affordable, high-speed internet.



FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



We enjoyed a great visit and delicious fried pork chop lunch with the Canton Lions Club. Following the lunch, I provided an intro and update from the Commission focusing on utility systems in our municipalities, broadband expansion in Madison County, development of renewable energy in the county, the current state of natural gas prices, and the impact the extreme heat has had on the interconnected grid. I appreciate my cousin Danny Murphy for inviting me to speak at last week's meeting and I enjoyed the conversations we were able to have.

Click flyers to enlarge

Mark your calendars Central District!

We are excited to announce our upcoming utility community forums in the Central District! These forums will give you the opportunity to learn more about the Commission and its responsibilities. We look forward to discussing ideas and receiving feedback from those who can attend.

We hope to see you there!

MORE INFO



Upcoming Locations:

Madison	Vicksburg	Greenville	Jackson	Meridian	Port Gibson
Sept. 12	Sept. 19	Sept. 26	Oct. 3	Oct. 10	Oct. 17
			Location TBD		



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **50** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	44
Telecommunications	5
Water/Sewer	1

SAVE THE DATE:

SEPTEMBER DOCKET MEETING

Thursday, September 7 at 10 am in the MPSC Hearing Room ([Link to Notice](#))